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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

2017 AUG 10 PM 1:34

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

Kevin Geiken

, Des Moines, IA 50321

Complainant,

v.

MUR # 7269

U.S. Representative David Young
P.O. Box 123
Van Meter, IA 50261

Young for Iowa, and Lisa Ashley, Treasurer in her official capacity
P.O. Box 162
Van Meter, IA 50261

Respondent.

COMPLAINT

Complainant files this complaint under 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1) against U.S. Representative David Young of Iowa's third congressional district, Young for Iowa, Inc., and Lisa Ashley, Treasurer of Young for Iowa, Inc. in her official capacity (collectively, "Respondents"), for violating the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA") and Federal Election Commission ("FEC") regulations, as described below. Respondents appear to have failed to report several contributions received in April 2017 from House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan's authorized campaign committee and his leadership PAC. These contributions were made as Speaker Ryan and House Republicans whipped votes for the American Health Care Act ("AHCA") and a Super PAC with ties to Speaker Ryan withdrew its support for Rep. Young, after Young announced his intent to vote against the AHCA. Upon receipt of these unreported contributions, Rep. Young actually voted for AHCA. The

Respondents' apparent failure to report these contributions is not only a blatant violation of federal law, but also a betrayal of the public trust and undermines the very purpose of disclosure under federal law.

I. FACTS

Representative David Young is a representative from the third congressional district in Iowa¹ and his principal campaign committee is Young for Iowa, Inc.² On April 4, 2017, House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan's campaign committee—Ryan for Congress, Inc.—gave two \$2,000.00 contributions to Young for Iowa.³ On the same day, a political action committee ("PAC") created by Speaker Ryan—Prosperity Action, Inc.—also gave one \$5,000.00 contribution to Young for Iowa.⁴ Ryan for Congress and Prosperity Action reported these contributions in their respective July 2017 quarterly filings. However, Young for Iowa did not; neither contribution has been reported by Young for Iowa to date.⁵

All of this activity comes on the heels of a big vote in healthcare in the United States House. On March 22, 2017, Rep. Young announced he would vote against the AHCA,⁶ then scheduled to come before the House for a floor vote on March 24, 2017.⁷ On March 23, 2017

¹ David Young, Fed. Election Comm'n Form 2 Statement of Candidacy (May 25, 2017), <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/781/201705259055150781/201705259055150781.pdf>.

² Young for Iowa, Inc., Fed. Election Comm'n Form 1 Statement of Organization (May 25, 2017), <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/774/201705259055150774/201705259055150774.pdf>.

³ Ryan for Congress, Inc., Fed. Election Comm'n Form 3 July Quarterly Report, at 3986 (reporting period Apr. 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017), <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/041/201707139066606041/201707139066606041.pdf>.

⁴ Prosperity Action Inc., Fed. Election Comm'n Form 3X Post-Special Report, at 235 (reporting period Apr. 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017), <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/937/201705129053522937/201705129053522937.pdf>.

⁵ See Young for Iowa, Inc., Fed. Election Comm'n Form 3 July Quarterly Report (reporting period April 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017), <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/572/201707149066652572/201707149066652572.pdf>.

⁶ Press Release, Office of U.S. Congressman David Young, Iowa Congressman Young Statement on the American Health Care Act (Mar. 22, 2017), <https://davidyoung.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/iowa-congressman-young-statement-american-health-care-act>.

⁷ Mike DeBonis, Ed O'Keefe, & Robert Costa, *GOP health-care bill: House Republican leaders abruptly pull their rewrite of the nation's health-care law*, Wash. Post (March 24, 2017), https://www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/house-leaders-prepare-to-vote-friday-on-health-care-reform/2017/03/24/736f1cd6-1081-11e7-9d5a-a83e627dc120_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-waeoirspfdkflhd&tid=ptv_rellink&utm_term=.21e5662f2a7d.

Congressional Leadership Fund ("CLF"), a Super PAC with ties to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan,⁸ announced that it would withdraw its financial support for Rep. Young's reelection campaign, after spending \$1.9 million on Rep. Young's behalf for his 2016 reelection.⁹ A day later, Republican House leadership—including Speaker Ryan—canceled a planned vote on the bill because it did not have enough support.¹⁰ Speaker Ryan's campaign committee and leadership PAC then made contributions to Young for Iowa on April 4, 2017 and on May 4, 2017, Rep. Young voted in favor of the AHCA.¹¹

II. LEGAL ARGUMENT

The Respondents appear to have violated FECA, codified at 52 U.S.C. § 30101 *et seq.*, by failing to report numerous contributions received by the campaign. The principal campaign committee of a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives must file quarterly reports with the FEC disclosing, among other things, the name of, and amount, of each political committee that made a contribution to the filing committee during the reporting period.¹² There are no exceptions to this requirement.

In their most recent filings with the FEC, Ryan for Congress and Prosperity Action disclosed contributions each entity made to Young for Iowa. Yet, in its July quarterly filing, Respondent failed to report these incoming contributions. By informing the public about sources of election spending, disclosure requirements ensure voters know who is speaking in our political

⁸ Mike DeBonis, *Top GOP super PAC sets its 2018 strategy: Pelosi, Pelosi, Pelosi*, Wash. Post (June 27, 2017), https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/06/27/top-gop-super-pac-sets-its-2018-strategy-pelosi-pelosi-pelosi/?utm_term=.f5a0a3af8327.

⁹ Jason Noble, *David Young loses support from Paul Ryan-run PAC over health care vote*, Des Moines Reg. (March 24, 2017 9:33 A.M.), <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2017/03/23/david-young-loses-support-paul-ryan-run-pac-over-health-care-vote/99556796/>.

¹⁰ DeBonis, O'Keefe, & Costa, *supra* note 7.

¹¹ Jason Noble, *Iowa Reps. Young, Blum, and King vote 'yes' on Obamacare replacement*, Des Moines Reg. (May 4, 2017 4:47 P.M.), <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2017/05/04/iowa-reps-young-blum-and-king-vote-yes-obamacare-replacement/310955001/>.

¹² 11 CFR § 104.3(a)(4).

process and protect the integrity of our democracy.¹³ The Respondents' apparent failure to report these incoming contributions from Ryan for Congress and Prosperity Action, especially in light of the healthcare vote taking place during that same time frame, ignore this important principle designed to protect our democracy. Respondent's actions appear to be a blatant violation of federal law and a betrayal of the public trust.

III. REQUESTED ACTION

As explained above, Rep. David Young, Young for Iowa, and the Treasurer of Young for Iowa appear to have violated FECA and FEC regulations by not reporting contributions from Ryan for Congress and Prosperity Action in Young for Iowa's July 2017 quarterly filing. Kevin Geiken respectfully requests that the Federal Election Commission promptly investigates these violations and fines the Respondents the maximum amount permitted by law.

Sincerely,

Kevin Geiken

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 31 day of July, 2017.

Terrie L. Chapman
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Aug 20, 2017



¹³ See, e.g., *Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm'n*, 558 U.S. 310, 315 (2010); *McConnell v. Fed. Election Comm'n*, 540 U.S. 93, 194-98 (2003); *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 76-78 (1976).